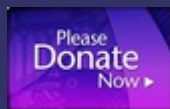




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Please help support Our Temple,
Dharma Study, Resident Student
Program & Our Practice Schedule
& Programs offered to the Public.

**Donations are tax
deductible**

Public Practice Schedule

Monday

7:00 am Zazen

7:40 am Morning Chanting Service

6:00 pm Zazen

6:40 pm Evening Chanting Service

Tuesday- Friday

6:00 am Zazen

6:40 am Kinhin (walking
meditation)

6:50 am Zazen

7:20 am Chanting Service

7:40 am Soji (brief temple
cleaning)

6:00 pm Zazen

6:40 pm Chanting Service

June 10, 2014

HSZC.org

Sangha e-Newsletter 2014



One day as the monks on Mt. Xiang chanted the Lotus Sutra,
Hongzhi was instantly enlightened upon hearing the phrase, "Your eye
that existed before your parents' birth sees everything in three
thousand realms." He then went to the abbot [**Facheng**] to declare his
awakening.

Facheng pointed to a box of incense and said, "What is the thing inside?"

Hongzhi said, "What do you mean?"

Facheng said, "What is in the place of your awakening?"

Hongzhi used his hand to draw a circle in the air and then made the gesture of
throwing it behind him.

Facheng said, "What limit is there for old fellows making mud balls?"

Hongzhi said, "Wrong."

Facheng said, "You've attained it when you don't see others."

Hongzhi said, "Yes. Yes."

Hongzhi then traveled on to practice with **Danxia Zichun**.

Danxia asked, "What is the self that exists before the empty kalpa?"

Hongzhi said, "A frog at the well bottom swallows the moon. Despite the night,
three times the window blind was illuminated."

Danxia said, "Don't say any more."

Hongzhi started to speak, but **Danxia** hit him with his whisk and said, "Don't say it!"
Upon hearing these words, **Hongzhi** was liberated. He then bowed.

Danxia said, "Can't you say something?"

Hongzhi said, "Today I've been robbed and lost

Thursdays Study Hour 7:30pm

Saturday

6:30 am Zazen
 7:10 am Chanting Service
 7:25 am Soji
 8:30 am Drop-in instruction
 9:25 am Zazen
 10:15 am Dharma Talk
 11:00 am Refreshments/Social



HIV Meditation Sitting Group

weekly meditation group for those living with HIV, their friends, families, community supporters & anyone who wants to join us!
 Thursdays & Fridays



my money."

Danxia said, "Without rest I've hit you. Now it's finished."

Zen's Chinese Heritage, Andy Ferguson



Embossed effect image of our HSZC Pet Shrine to remember our gone beyond loved and missed, but not forgotten four legged and furry family members (welcome to scaled or feathered friends too!) June 2014



Upcoming Events:

Dharma Talks- Rev. Myō Lahey - Jun 14,21,28 @10:15am

Guest Speaker Saturdays - July 19 Renshin Bunce; July 26 Jamie

10:30 am zazen
11:00 am garden socializing

Meditation in Recovery

(Men & Women)

weekly meditation group for men & women in recovery from addiction

Fridays, 7:30 pm - 9 pm

Women's Meditation in

Recovery

(Women only)

monthly meditation group for women in recovery from addiction.

First Thurs, 7:15 pm -8:45 pm



Howell; **August 16** Hobu Beata Chapman; August 30 Mark Lancaster; **September 13** Jisan Tova Green; October 11 Laura Burges; **December 27** Mark Lancaster

Full Moon Ceremony - Saturday, June 14 @ 11am - the Full Strawberry or Rose Moon. This is also Flag day!

Sangha Council - TBD

Founder's Memorial - Issan's Memorial is generally on the 6th of the month, & the memorial for Philip Whalen is generally on the 26th @ 6:40pm

Study Hour - Book of Serenity, we have books to share, we read together, feel free to drop-in - Thursdays @7:30pm

Next Board of Directors' Meeting - Second Wednesdays of the month June 11 @7:30pm You're welcome to attend & observe.

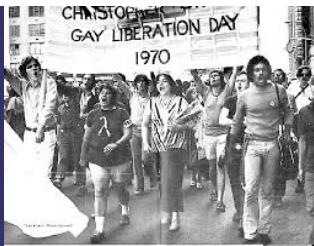
LGBTQI PRIDE march & festival! - June 29th and you are invited to join the parade contingent organized by SFZC's Queer Dharma. **Have a safe and enjoyable month and Pride weekend of events!**

Hartford Street Sangha practice week at Tassajara - July 8th through the 11th, 2014. The rooms through HSZC have been finalized. Anyone wishing to join us at this point will need to look into standard quest accommodations

Winter Study Period - (similar to a practice period) is planned to kick off around Sejiki (Late October) and run through Rohatsu and the Winter Light 5 day retreat (Early December).

Words From Our Abbot: Rev Myō Lahey

...In virtually every tradition that has not lost touch with its mystical roots, there is at least an implicit command to know oneself. Socrates, Augustine, the Sufis, the Vedantists, all ask the question, "Who are you?" and declare that our own happiness, our growth, our humanity hang upon the answer.



How will you respond if the question is asked of you, even in your last moment? "Well, I am a human being" you might say, or "I am a father." Or "I'm a man who loves other men."

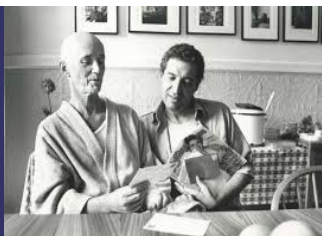
Each of these may be true, or they might all be true together, but the point might nonetheless be missed if one isn't thorough-going. In what is sometimes known as the Zen school, we say that Buddhists practice is about learning what it means to stick the *hoe into the earth, and to answer, to speak the truth from the depths of one's own life. We shall go on to look at how such a thing might be learned, beginning with what Buddhists might call the path of preparation.

There are many ways of preparing to go on a journey. Even a simple trip to the market requires that one get organized. There might be the grocery list to find, the car keys to locate, money for purchases, and so on. But what if the journey were such that it needed virtually to be identified with one's life? How could one ever prepare for such a thing?...

* Reference to Yang-shan's hoe

[Queer Dharma - Voices of Gay Buddhists V.2 - edited by Winston Leyland](#)





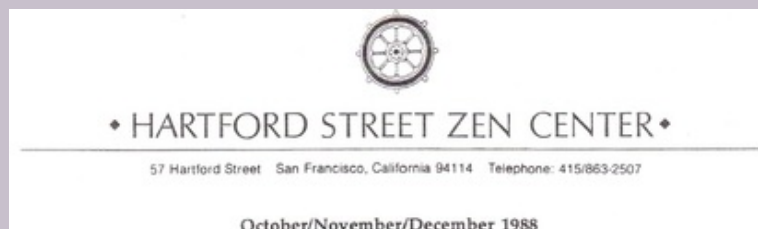
Hartford Street History -

The Garden

Twenty years ago a friend—who reads me well—gave me a simple placard for my Volkswagen van. It read, "In order to love others, I must first love myself." My friend also offered me her tattered copy of D.T. Suzuki's book, Zen Buddhism. I pored over that book knowing that "someday" I would practice zazen myself.

Now, twenty years later—beginning to love myself, beginning to let go of myself—another friend, Maria, has led me to the Hartford Street Zen Center. It took letting go of the closet and a family, letting go of alcoholism and—whip to the bone—the shock of a positive HIV test, to finally bring me to this austere and ordinary place.

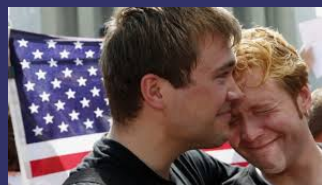
Coming to the Hartford Street Zen Center I understand more clearly that my practice is, most of all, sitting simply in zazen. But then again, our little sangha, our Victorian house, our AIDS hospice, Maitri, and the pleasure of taking responsibility for creating and caring for a front yard garden, all enrich my life daily.



Gratitude to Shogen, Tom Hawkins for his work with our website and posting Dharma talks - He also recently transported our Abbot, Rev Myo to a speaking engagement at Santa Cruz Zen Center and you can access this and other remote or archived talks [here!](#)



In Early July look for our non-profit promotional window display at the top corner of Walgreens on Castro Street and 18th Street!



Other Holidays or Events:

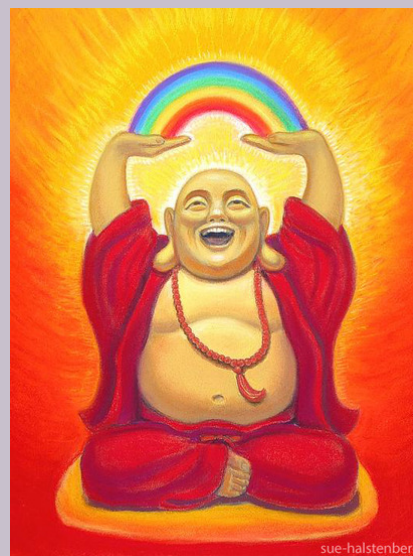
[Flag Day](#) - June 14, Saturday

[Father's Day](#) - June 15, Sunday

[Juneteenth](#) - June 19, Thursday

[Summer Solstice](#) June 21, Saturday

[Ramadan](#) Begins (Islamic) June 29, Sunday



*Budai or Pu-Tai (Chinese: 布袋; pinyin: Bùdài), or Hotei in Japanese, Bồ Đại in Vietnamese: is a Chinese folkloric deity. His name means "Cloth Sack," and comes from the bag that he is conventionally depicted as carrying. He is usually identified with or seen as an incarnation of Maitreya, the future Buddha, so much so that the Budai image is one of the main forms in which Maitreya is depicted in East Asia.

Conflation with other religious figures -

Angida Arhat : Angida was one of the original eighteen Arhats of Buddhism. According to legend, Angida was a talented Indian snake catcher whose aim was to catch venomous snakes to prevent them from biting passers-by. Angida would also remove the snake's venomous fangs and release them. Due to his kindness, he was able to attain bodhi. In



"Use a picture. It's worth a thousand words."

1911 - Arthur Brisbane

Chinese art, Angida is sometimes portrayed as Budai, being rotund, laughing, and carrying a bag

Phra Sangkajai / Phra Sangkachai: In Thailand, Budai is sometimes confused with another similar monk widely respected in Thailand, Phra Sangkajai or Sangkachai (Thai: พระสังกัจจายน์). Phra Sangkajai, a Thai rendering of Maha Kaccana or Mahakaccayanathera (Thai: มหากัจจายนเถระ), was a Buddhist Arhat (in Sanskrit) or Arahant (in Pali) during the time of the Lord Buddha.

* Wikipedia

Seeking a **LGBTQI, Buddhist** space for your wedding? HSZC & Abbot Rev. Myō Lahey can be a part of this amazing & love filled ceremony. HSZC can house your Zen Buddhist Wedding ceremony & Rev Myō can perform weddings! Please email hszc108@yahoo.com, call us, or a better way yet is to stop in & discuss during our publicly open hours.



Abbot, Hartford Street Zen Center (HSZC) --- Reverend Myō Lahey



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San Francisco, CA 94114



info@hszc.org

415.863.2507

Please submit stories, reflections, personal news, artwork & photography for future newsletters to KeiDo at tetsugen.keido@yahoo.com

May this newsletter find you well & equanimous! __/__

